

# Shake, rattle and roll



Photo courtesy of Doug Hansen

The destructiveness of an avalanche is validated by this photo, taken in the aftermath of the Feb. 17, 1986 snowslide

that plummeted from above Bridal Veil Falls down into Provo Canyon. The slide created a dam in the Provo River, which

subsequently caused additional damage to the canyon when the river overflowed its banks.

## Danger silently looms above Provo Canyon

By PAT CHRISTIAN  
The Daily Herald

It happened before. And there is fear it could happen again, possibly soon — an avalanche at Bridal Veil Falls or somewhere else, and with it destruction or death.

No one knows the danger bet-

ter than two local snowboarders who last weekend survived an avalanche that buried them up to their neck on Mt. Timpanogos' eastern slopes.

Now there's a worry that the monster that sometimes crashes down Bridal Veil Falls could be triggered.

Doug Hansen, the contract

mountain guide for Bridal Veil Falls, said he's particularly worried because of recent storms that have loaded the high mountains above the falls with snow.

What seemed like spring rain in the valley and even at Bridal Veil Fall's base, was heavy, wet snow high above on precipices that feed the gullies leading to the

top of the falls, he said.

Hansen is trying to warn people to believe the signs Bridal Veil Falls has posted warning people where not to be during the winter months.

"We've found people parking between the warning signs where

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## AVALANCHE:

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there is extreme danger, and we have asked them to move to safer areas," Hansen said Friday.

"What's misleading is that people come here and can't see any snow, so they think it's OK to disregard the signs.

"But what they don't realize is, these avalanches come down from 10,000 feet. Most people just don't realize how avalanches start up high, then flow down through steep gullies until they drop over the falls, taking them by surprise."

"Even though there's no snow where they are, they can instantly be buried."

Avalanches that kill are often triggered by backcountry travelers. But they can be triggered by sound or eventually by instability and their own weight.

An average of about two people are killed by avalanches in Utah's backcountry each year. These figures don't count avalanche victims

Avalanches hang silently and menacingly, waiting to be triggered sometimes as if by a hound's breath. When they come, it is quickly.

The last time the Bridal Veil monster was triggered was Monday, Feb. 17, 1986.

Tons of snow poured over the falls, entombing the parking lot, ripping apart the take-out restaurant and sweeping away the bridge across the Provo River.

At the main building, containing the motors for the steepest tram in the world, the snowslide split as if showing benevolence, doing only a little damage to the structure.

The brakes were locked tight on the boxcar filled with wood just across the river from the tram building.

But a small finger of the avalanche traveled up the railroad tracks pushing the box car as if it was a scale model.

Instantly dammed by the slide, the Provo River backed up, flooding the canyon road, eroding it away and doing more damage to



With new congressional changes, there are no more funds for the caucus and it has turned to asking the new Republican women to chip in, she said.

"Hopefully, we will make some changes in the Congressional Women's caucus," she said.

As a candidate who signed the GOP's "Contract for America," Valdholtz is helping to enact laws to fulfill the pact.

New legislation making Congress live its own laws will have far-reaching impacts, according to

allowing members to study and read over measures before voting on them.

"We've been allowing what Democrats never let Republicans do, study and read bills. It's a major change and means we may have to slow things down a little bit."

She said this week, Congress will still pass a law making it nearly impossible to impose unfunded mandates on states.

"The week after that, we will pass a balanced-budget amendment"

## WOLVES:

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ors or many other reasons.

On Thursday, eight wolves were placed in one-acre pens in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park. Officials said Saturday they were doing well, feeding on elk and deer carcasses placed inside the pens. They will be in the pens for at least six weeks, then released.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to release 15 wolves in Idaho and 15 in Yellowstone this year, the start of a five-year effort to re-establish wolf populations in the northern Rocky Mountain states. The animals were wiped out there 60 years ago.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals briefly held up the wolves' release to consider legal objections from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Mountain States Legal Foundation. The court lifted the stay late Thursday.

ave us understand today, are anxious for revelatory insights into the current significance of scriptural texts and concepts," he said.

"They understand that some things we have already received are hard to understand without the word's help, and that we can never receive enough of the word of God.

"Persons with this attitude are anxious to have every source of revelation to help us know what the word would have us understand from the scriptures today.

The wolves' return is opposed by ranchers who fear they would stray out of the wilderness and kill livestock.

The Lemhi Shoshoni band of Indians, who claim the Salmon River Valley as their ancestral home, said a prayer Friday that the wolf would again make the area its home as well.

"He is welcome here," said tribal elder Dan Ariwite. "The prayer is also for people as a whole so they can get along with the wolf in this country."



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